

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
November 13, 2008**

Items 1,2,3 – Introductions, Review and Approval of Minutes, Chair’s Comments: With all familiar faces, member introductions were skipped. Minutes from the October 16th meeting were approved without comment. Regarding the Purple Line, **Chair Jim Polk** announced that from November 15th to November 22nd, there will be a series of public meetings. **Mr. Polk** suggested that anyone who is interested should make every attempt to go. Since **Sgt. Tom Harmon** needed to leave early, **Mr. Polk** asked that his update be covered first (see Item 6 below for Sgt. Harmon’s Police Activity Update.)

Item 4 – Small and Large Business Reps – Open Positions: **Jim Carlson** said that the County Executive’s office is still looking for small and large business reps to fill the vacant seats on this committee. Mr. Carlson sent a letter to a number of large and small companies in the CBD. To date, there have been no responses.

Item 5 – Extended Discussion – SSTMD Budget Priorities: **Mr. Polk** reminded the group that at the last meeting the Committee spent a significant amount of time discussing the FY10 budget priorities recommendations, but that they had some numbers missing. **Mr. Carlson** supplied these numbers and typed up an outline of the budget priorities, which was distributed to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the benefits of extending the hours of the VanGo service as one of the budget priorities for FY10. The focus is on a weekday extension. **Terrie O’Steen** recommended that a survey be provided to riders of the VanGo. A trial period of extended hours would be helpful as well. The Committee can then analyze the numbers for the best way to proceed. In terms of the survey, **Mr. Carlson** suggested something very short.

Charles Segerman said there may be some confusion about current ridership, since the statistics cited in the FY09 budget outline went back to 2002, when the program was initiated. **Mr. Polk** suggested that we look at all the numbers from every year before deciding what to include in the proposal.

Mr. Polk believes that we should still be looking to increase the frequency of Ride On, but cautioned that it would be better to focus on specific routes that need improvement rather than all buses that service Silver Spring. **Mr. Carlson** will follow up with Phil McLaughlin for the data that the Committee is seeking.

Ms. O’Steen gave updated information about the Super FareShare program. Currently, there are 35 active employers in the program. At present, the Silver Spring program is over-subscribed, which isn’t necessarily a problem since the money can come from other sources. The FY10 budget will request that the budget stay at the present level of \$200,000.

In addition to the Committee’s concerns regarding Pedestrian Safety, included as a priority in the FY09 budget request, members also expressed concern about the timing of traffic signals throughout the Central Business District, in particular on Georgia Avenue.

The Committee remains interested in a new initiative that encourages bicycling. Since the Committee believes this should include branding, bicycle parking and promotion, a bike sharing program might be well-received. The jug handle would be a good place to house a bike sharing station.

In terms of the Interim Operating Site for FY10, **Mr. Polk** is recommending that crossing guards, security guards, and other security issues are maintained or improved. **Ms. O'Steen** believes that crossing guards should have the right to cite jaywalkers.

The Silver Spring Parking Lot District (PLD) needs funds, and even after the most recent rate increase, parking is still a relative bargain in Silver Spring. The Committee would support increasing parking rates further in general within the PLD. Since there is a shortage of revenues in the PLD, it is harder to fund other projects like the VanGo. **Mel Tull** said that other PLDs charge over \$1.00 per hour, while in Silver Spring, the rates are typically below that. Some members expressed that they would like to see longer hours. **Mr. Segerman** suggested that first the group recommend raising the rates and thus increase revenues before any recommendation about changing the hours. **Mr. Polk** reminded the group as well that higher parking rates can encourage motorists to take other forms of transportation.

Mr. Polk stressed the need for a simplified payment system. The group debated whether SmarTrip cards could be the answer, but there were concerns about having to pay the \$5.00 initial cost for the card. Nonetheless, the group agreed that they should agree on a simplified payment system.

The Committee supports continued traffic enforcement efforts, and this ties in with pedestrian safety as well.

Item 6 – Updates: **Sgt. Harmon** handed out the 3rd Quarter Crash Data for the TMD. Preliminary data shows 5 fatalities in the 3rd Quarter. The County is trying to identify areas where some engineering improvements can be made, along with increased enforcement.

Saturday, November 27 is the Silver Spring Parade. There will be road closures from 6:30 AM until 12:00 PM that day. This is also the time of year that robberies are typically at their peak.

Ms. O'Steen updated the group on Traffic Mitigation Plans. There are three new plans:

- The Pulmonary Hypertension Association
- Safeway
- Marshall's

Marshall's and Safeway were both previously in violation, but both are now in compliance. The Committee reviewed all three plans, and recommend approval.

Item 7 – Other Business & Around the Room: **Mr. Carlson** announced that the Ethics and Open Meetings Training being held at the Executive Office Building on January 15. All Committee members should attend if they have not yet done so. A reminder will be sent electronically.

Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (SSTMD AC) Attendance Sheet
November 13, 2008

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Samantha Mazo	Linowes and Blocher LLP	X	
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation	X	
Tom Collins	Atlantech Online	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Vacant			
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates		X
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America	X	
TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems	X	
Vacant			
Non-Voting Members (4)			
Sandra Brecher, DOT Transit Services	DOT Director or Designee		X
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC		X
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police	X	
Staff			
Terrie O'Steen	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
David Kantor	DOT, Commuter Services		X
Jim Carlson	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Mel Tull	SS Regional Services Center	X	